

CHURCH BACK OF PASTOR REXROAD

Former Butte Minister, Klan Officer in Spokane, Has Support of His Board.

That the board members of the Corbin Park Methodist Episcopal church south are solidly with their pastor, the Rev. G. A. Rexroad, who recently announced that he was exalted coryphe of the Ku Klux Klan in Spokane, is indicated in the Spokane papers. At the same time the fact that Mr. Rexroad is chaplain of the National Guard of Washington has been brought to the attention of Adjutant General Thompson, who is considering what action shall be taken on the minister's announcement.

Mr. Rexroad formerly was pastor of the Methodist church south in Butte, and the announcement of his Klan affiliations in Spokane caused a great deal of interest among his former parishioners here.

"Indications that Mr. Rexroad's resignation as national guard chaplain might be forthcoming was evident in remarks made by some guard officers that 'the higher-ups had expressed wonder as to whether Mr. Rexroad would resign or not,'" says the Spokane Chronicle.

Mrs. J. Long Scott, a woman member of the Corbin Park Methodist Episcopal church board, issued the statement that "the board would stand behind Mr. Rexroad no matter what comes or goes." Her statement was supported by expressions from several other board members, who declared they would not take the matter before the board for action.

The Right Course.

"We think he has taken the right view," said Mrs. Scott, "and I think there are scores of others who think the same thing. The Rev. Mr. Rexroad is a splendid upright and forward man."

Mr. Rexroad today branded one story as a venomous attack.

"I'm not worrying at all," he said. "My friends are all loyal and are standing with me."

"I'm a preacher first, last and always and expect to continue my work here. The announcement of my being head of the Klan was a venomous attack which I can not understand."

He declared the principles of the Klan were not set forth in the story of his leadership of the organization, although he admitted reorganization of the local Klan had in no way altered the Klan principles, which he yesterday termed "as always have been and are now all right."

Mr. Rexroad, can you state whether any other Spokane ministers are members of the Klan, and if so, how many and who they are?" he was asked.

"I can say nothing about it."

Mr. Rexroad objected to a statement that he said the "Orangemen were organized to oppose the Catholics," declaring he said he "understood they were formed for that purpose." He declared he did not belong to the Orangemen and was not a member of the old society of the A. P. A.

Miss Ruth Kennell was the one woman member of the Corbin Park church board who expressed a dislike for the Klan, but she also questioned whether she would call the matter to the attention of the board.

"I don't think I would join the Klan if I were a man," she said.

"I didn't know Mr. Rexroad was coryphe of the Klan until I read it," said A. D. Cross, head of the board.

"However, it is a personal matter with him and no concern of mine. I won't call for action from the board."

"I don't think the Rev. Mr. Rexroad would do anything that isn't right," said Mrs. W. G. Davidson, another member of the board, after explaining she didn't know anything about the Klan.

Not Now Legion Member.

A search by Legion officials of their membership roster showed today that Mr. Rexroad is not a paid-up member in the Spokane post of the American Legion, Jack Reinhardt, commander, stated today.

"A member of the Klan can hardly subscribe to the Legion constitution and remain a Ku Kluxer," said Mr. Reinhardt, as he presented the following portion of the preamble to the Legion constitution:

"To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of right; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by devotion to mutual helpfulness."